

them a salary increase of this amount, 20 percent or more, I don't believe it is justified. I don't think that the people would agree that they should be paid according to what those around us are paid. I don't know how much time the chairman puts in as Chairman of the Parole Board, but he certainly has a very powerful position there since there is only three of them, as Ernie says. I just guess that...I think the Parole Board has cost us more in taxes by paroling people too soon or too early and then they go out and commit another crime which costs more money. I would like to see a stronger Parole Board. I would like to see them actually earn this, deserve it. I just don't think a 20 percent salary increase is warranted by anybody in government right now. That includes all the constitutional officers. It does not include the Legislature. Senator Chambers said, when you're starting out at such a low salary, \$38,564 for the chairman, he believes 20 percent increase is a good thing. But when you look at the low salary here of \$4,800, 20 percent still wouldn't bring us up to the minimum wage. So I believe the Legislature who has not had a salary increase in 20 years, I think they are the only exception...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...and I don't know a senator here that wouldn't be happy to take half of what the Chairman of the Parole Board makes or half of what other full-time people who work on the Parole Board make, 20,000, 16,000 at this time, Senator Chambers would raise it to 20. I understand where he is coming from, but I am so worried that since they have advertised how much extra funds the government has, that everybody is going to be jumping up saying, let's spend it, and I would like to leave this Legislature thinking that for once we're going to say, just because we have a little more than we need in the kitty, we don't have to spend it. I guess you might say this is the year I'm becoming a little more conservative. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. I'd like to take a moment to recognize two guests of Senator Arlene Nelson under the south balcony. We have from Grand Island Senior High School, Jim Gawrych and Rod Fay. Would you gentlemen please stand and be recognized. And also guests of Senator Campbell in the north balcony, District 24, we have 28 eighth graders with their teacher from Platte Center, Nebraska. Would you people please stand and be recognized. Thank you, we're glad to have you